

**MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
85 PERRY STREET
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS 02446**

February 21, 2014

Dear Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, Ranking Members, and other members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 432: AN ACT CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE STATES TO ELECT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BY NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE. I'm writing you about an issue I feel passionate about — electing the Presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in all 50 states. I hope you will join me in supporting this critical reform and enact this legislation in Connecticut this year.

Something happened in the 2000 presidential election that should never be permitted to happen again. The candidate who failed to win the national popular vote became the President of the United States. In fact, this was the fourth time in our nation's history that it happened — and, if we don't take action now it will happen again.

I think it is high time we got rid of the current system and elected our Presidents the way we elect every other elected official in the country- whichever candidate receives the most votes is elected. The overwhelming majority of the American people do as well. Connecticut citizens are supportive as well. In a poll, 74% of Connecticut residents indicated they support a national popular vote for President.

Fortunately, we now have a way to fix the current system. That is what passing the National Popular Vote bill will do, and it is critically important that Connecticut approve the bill. When Connecticut has passed the bill, it will join Maryland, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Illinois, California, Washington, the District of Columbia, Hawaii and Rhode Island in approving the bill.

Why is it so important to pass this legislation? Because under the current system, running for president means just one thing: focus on the so-called swing states. I did it. Al Gore did it. John Kerry and Barack Obama did it, and our Republican opponents did it, too. A big turnout in Connecticut, Massachusetts and most other states is irrelevant to winning the election. Only winning the swing states matters, and presidential candidates are under tremendous pressure to

embrace issues and positions that will resonate in those few states. That's not healthy, and it's not right.

We have a historic opportunity to join with other state legislatures to fix this broken system, increase voter participation and put a premium on strong and effective grassroots organizing in all states-- something that happens to be a particular passion of mine.

Enacting a national popular vote is the right thing to do for the country—and it will put voters in spectator states like Connecticut on a level playing field with the voters in the swing states like New Hampshire—where we belong.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Dukakis".

Michael S. Dukakis